

February 24, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (February 15–21, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

An excavating machine with a concrete breaker is being used to remove the abandoned sump in the Old Machine Shop. (Work Instruction [WI] -1090)

The window oil drained from the hot cell windows under WI-1126 was free-released and is being turned over to Battelle Columbus Operations (BCO) for disposal.

Work under WI-1155 covering the removal of the large plugs from the High Energy Cell (HEC) was delayed for removal of the windows under WI-1157. The work required some of the same tools and the same general work area, so both jobs could not be continued. This work will continue next week. (See attached photos.)

Work under WI-1157 for removing the HEC windows was performed this week. Staff members worked with the Hot Cell Services crew and removed all five hot cell windows. The windows were moved to JN-3 to be free-released if possible. If they are free-released, they will be packaged and shipped to Hot Cell Services. This work is 80% complete and will continue with regular shifts next week. (See attached photos.)

WI-1120, covering removal of the manipulator support area, was issued; and staff members will be briefed next week.

For WI-1122 that covers set-up of the HEC mezzanine, assembly of the Perma-Con structure commenced and should be completed by February 28, 2003.

Building JN-3:

The installation of the well and piping system was completed. (WI-1113)

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

Bids and proposals continued to be evaluated for the planned JN-12 Access Control Point/Locker Room trailer to be located on top of the existing footers outside JN-3, and requested additional information was received from the vendors to enable completion of this process.

Design work for the JN-4 isolation plan continued. The preliminary design was reviewed with Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, Inc. This firm is proceeding with final design of the utilities and developing design options for the JN-4 access road.

Preliminary proposals were received for the modular Radioanalytical Laboratory facility. The Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project (BCLDP) will finalize the request for proposal and then request final proposals from the vendors in the next few weeks.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

The first cask (CNS 10-160B #7) arrived back from the Hanford Nuclear Facility this week. The High Bay was cleared in preparation for loading two casks this weekend. The crew will work Saturday and Sunday loading the casks. The second cask trailer is being serviced and should arrive on Saturday or Sunday. If it arrives late on Sunday, it will be loaded next Monday. Weather permitting, both will be shipped to Hanford next week.

The BCLDP participated in a conference call with the Midwestern Governors Council to discuss the proposed February 26, 2003, TRU waste shipment of two CNS 10-160B casks to Hanford.

The BCLDP loaded one CNS 10-160B shipping cask with five 55-gallon drums of remote-handled (RH-) TRU waste. The second cask is scheduled to be loaded on Tuesday morning.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Two (2) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell.

Seventy cubic feet (70 ft³) of compactible LLW were accepted for packaging. Non-compactible low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 and JN-3 was packaged into B-25 boxes, for a total volume of 100 ft³ for Envirocare of Utah disposal.

One B-25 box of mixed LLW (MLLW) lead from the HEC was packaged; it was staged in the JN-1 "Sheep shed" <90-day Resource Conservation and Recovery Act accumulation area. The MLLW is destined for Envirocare for treatment and disposal. Five 55-gallon drums containing a total volume of 200 gallons of HEC window oil were radiologically free-released for disposal by BCO HWO.

Twenty-one cubic feet (150 gallons) of water from the 5,000-gallon tank formerly located in the JN-1 Pump Room was radiologically free-released and transferred into the evaporator.

Four hundred and thirty-five cubic feet (435 ft³) of radiologically free-released soil from JN-1 was shipped for municipal disposal.

WIDE Technology Deployment:

Staff reviewed the data of the injection cycle testing and prepared procedures for the extraction cycle testing. Meetings were held to discuss the concerns and needed modifications to start extraction testing. Plot 2 subsurface water level monitoring continued. Sauer is finalizing the design of the extraction modifications. (WI-984)

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 808 days and 529,795 exposure hours without a lost time injury accident.

III. Facilities and Equipment:

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance for the WJ North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds were completed. The evaporator is refilled and operating properly. Buckeye Landscape continued to remove snow and ice at the north site. Midwest Mechanical checked the JN-6 generator when dampness in the control box gave a trouble light indication; the light went out, the generator operated properly, and no problem was found. The annual Mechanical Test Cell AMS-4 calibration was completed. The filters in the JN-3 sump were replaced to improve the pumping flow. Buckets were placed throughout the buildings to catch drips from leaking roofs.

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Planning continued in the following areas:

- WI-1119 for the JN-6 reroofing was complete and distributed. Work will start as weather permits.
- WI-1131 for the JN-1B Pump Room roof resurfacing is in the review cycle.
- Plans continued to replace the JN-1B groundwater sump pump. A Confined Space Class was scheduled for next week. The current pump's float switch has failed.

IV. Program Administration and Control

The Monthly Status Report for January 2003 was submitted to DOE-CCP on February 14, 2003.

V. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk